

# INFORMATION REPORT

442-01

3. I have no specific knowledge of the training given to enlisted men in my unit but heard from other medical officers that the men had two hours of training per day, including: lectures on military discipline, army regulations, drill regulations and political lectures. They also had some squad drill.
4. I went to the firing range twice each year, in the fall and in the spring. Each time I fired five rounds with the 7.22 TT pistol but I do not know what score I made, nor what score is necessary to qualify for marksmanship. Once, however, I did hear a range officer say to an officer who had made 36 points out of a possible 50 that this was a very good score. The range was on Roonstrasse, near the post office in Potsdam. The officers of the Main Dental Clinic were taken there by car, usually in the morning, and returned to the clinic after the firing was over.
5. At the Dental Clinic the regular duty schedule was the same for all the personnel, - Soviet military and civilian, and German personnel: work from 0900-1500, a break from 1500 to 1700 for dinner, more work from 1700 to 1900, and supper from 1900 to 2000. My unit did not have reveille; breakfast was served from 0800-0900. After 2000 it was free time except for Communist party members who had meetings. I know nothing about these. Tuesday was reserved for general training and there was no duty at the Dental Clinic on Sunday.
6. Aside from the weekly training programs and the occasional firing practice I received absolutely no further military training during my stay in the Soviet Zone. Even this training was not subject to inspections and reporting.
7. I heard from various medical officers in Potsdam that soldiers who have completed seven years of education are assigned to NCO schools and sent where needed after graduation. Instructors are selected from the best officers of the respective branches.
8. I can give no information about summer training and maneuvers in either the Soviet Zone or the USSR since I never attended such training nor heard about it.

#### Miscellaneous

9. In February [redacted] that only the dependents of General officers and Counter-Intelligence officers are permitted to go to the Soviet Zone of Germany. No explanation was given for this policy which prevents the dependents of ordinary military personnel from accompanying them to Germany and no one dares ask for an explanation.
10. Restrictions imposed on all Soviet personnel, whether Soviet civilians, enlisted men or officers, are much the same. When an officer wanted to leave the dental clinic compound during off-duty hours, he had to get permission from the charge of quarters or the officer of the day. Such requests were usually refused although the decision was very arbitrary and depended mostly on the man who was CO or OD. Contacts with the local population and alcoholic beverages, including beer, were forbidden. All German private homes or public places were off-limit. Soviet personnel could take only

SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

trains designated by GOFG; traveling on all other trains, buses and street cars was forbidden. Soviet personnel could take only taxis owned by the German government, distinguished by checkered stripes along the sides. Other taxis, marked by long white stripes, were forbidden to Soviet personnel. Reading of newspapers or literature is restricted to official Soviet publications.

11. In spite of the strict discipline exercised, various regulations are frequently disobeyed by all Soviet personnel. Morale is very low because everyone fears arrest for minor offenses. I have heard that Soviet soldiers constantly leave their compounds without permission in order to drink and fraternize. The average number of people held in the guardhouse was about 40. At the time I deserted there were some 15 officers and 15 enlisted men in it.
12. Drunkenness continues to be prevalent among Soviet personnel, especially among officers who have more money than EM. Officers usually drink in their rooms but must be very careful since they are subject to search by Counter-Intelligence men at any time. EM usually drink inside the compound after getting the alcohol from some German who passes it through the fence. I remember that sometime in 1950 an order was issued which forbade buying or consuming alcoholic beverages, including beer to all Soviet personnel. I cannot recall either the date of the order nor the authority which issued it. That same order also made it illegal for Soviet messes and clubs to sell alcoholic drinks. While I do not remember having seen or heard about recent orders concerning breaches of discipline, I know that the behaviour of military personnel is constantly condemned in political lectures.
13. Disobedience of regulations can be observed constantly since most Soviet officers patronize German bars, cafes and private homes. I recall that one officer [redacted] who greeted a German in public was apprehended by a Kommandatura patrol and not seen again. I have forgotten the name of the officer and the date of the incident. [redacted] the officers [redacted] had a party, and were singing and dancing when the commanding officer [redacted] came in and demanded in a very rough manner that the party be broken up. I protested against the profanity whereupon he turned his wrath on me. In the end I struck him, was arrested immediately and later sentenced to 10 days in the guardhouse.
14. I do not know the percentage of Soviet personnel who have VD, nor how many persons are kept in the venereal section of the Potsdam General Military Hospital.
15. Aside from the indications given, I can give no specific examples revealing a low state of the morale of the Soviet personnel. I have heard other officers say, however, that the EM resent the comparative freedom of movement allowed to officers, as well as their better pay, food and living quarters, and their longer leaves. I cannot estimate the effect that medical care, recreation, PX facilities, food and other such matters have on the morale of the personnel.

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16. According to Soviet Army regulations every officer is due for promotion every three years. All promotions are made by higher headquarters on the recommendation of the immediate commanding officer. Frequently the CO does not make a recommendation for promotion because he personally dislikes a particular officer. On this point I have occasionally heard dissatisfaction expressed by officers. I can give no information on the promotion policy for EM.

17. From February 1950 until November 1951 two persons from my unit were returned to the USSR for political unreliability before the expiration of their normal tour of duty.

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18. I can give only one indication about air raid defense measures in the USSR. The headquarters building of air defense administration in Sverdlovsk is located on the corner of Lenin and Pushkin streets. Only the administrative officers of air defense are working in this building.

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